

Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

## Agricultural Weather Highlights - Monday - September 30, 2002

- In the West, warm, dry weather favors autumn fieldwork in California and the Southwest. Meanwhile, scattered showers are aiding recently sown winter grains in the Northwest, but more moisture is needed to ensure proper autumn establishment.
- On the Plains, very cool weather continues to slow winter wheat emergence across northern portions of the region, especially in Montana, although topsoil moisture remains mostly favorable. Meanwhile on the central and southern Plains, warm, dry weather favors summer crop harvesting and winter wheat emergence, although rain will soon be needed to promote wheat establishment.
- In the Corn Belt, scattered showers and thunderstorms are causing only minor harvest delays across northern portions of the region. Elsewhere in the Midwest, warm, dry weather favors fieldwork and winter wheat emergence.
- *In the South*, warm, dry weather favors a gradual return to fieldwork and is aiding recently soaked cotton in the *Delta* and parts of the *Southeast*.

Outlook: For the remainder of the week, warm, dry weather will prevail across the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic States, and Ohio Valley, while scattered showers will continue across the upper Midwest. Farther west, cooler weather and periods of rain will accompany a series of cold fronts in the Pacific Northwest, central and northern Rockies, and central and northern Plains. By week's end, scattered showers will spread into portions of the Southwest and southern Plains, while tropical moisture will provide a chance of showers to the Gulf Coast States. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for October 5-9 calls for wetter-than-normal conditions across the Great Lakes, Ohio Valley, and Northeast, but drier-than normal weather in much of the West. Below-normal temperatures are expected across the Great Basin, central and northern Rockies, and northern Plains, while warmer-than-normal weather is forecast for the Gulf and Atlantic Coast States.

*Contact:* Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)